





THE  
DECLARATION  
OF THE  
Lords and Commons

In Parliament assembled,

Concerng His MAIESTIES  
severall Messages about the  
MILITIA.

With an Order of the Lords and Commons,  
touching the *Militia* of the Citie  
of LONDON.

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Iovis 5. Maii. 1642.

*Ordered by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parlia-  
ment, that this Declaration shall be forthwith published  
and Printed.*

John. Browne Cleric.  
Parliamentorum.

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London, Printed for I.T. 1642.

DECLARATION

OF THE

House of Commons

In Parliament assembled,

Concerning His Majesty's

Gracious Letters under the

Great Seal

With an Order of the Lords and Commons  
relating to the same, and the  
of a Bill

For that purpose

Ordered by the House of Commons, in the  
presence of the Speaker, that the

Bill be

For that purpose

For that purpose

London: Printed by W. Woodcock.



DIE IOVIS 5<sup>th</sup>.

Maui. 1642.



He Lords and Commons holding it necessary for the peace and safety of this Kingdome to settle the *Militia* thereof, did for that purpose prepare an Ordinance of Parliament, and withall humility did present the same to His Maiesty for his Royall assent, Who notwithstanding the faithfull advice of His Parliament, and the severall reasons offered by them of the necessity thereof, for the securing of His Maiesties Person, and the Peace and safety of his people, did refuse to give His consent, and thereupon they were necessitated, in discharge of the trust reposed in them as there presentative body of the Kingdome, to make an Ordinance by Authority of both Houses, to settle the *Militia*, warranted therereunto by the fundamentall Lawes of the Land. His Maiestie taking notice thereof, did by severall Messages invite them to settle the same by A<sup>&</sup> of Parliament, affirming in His Maiesties

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Mes.

Message sent in answer to the Petition of both  
 Houses presented to his Maiestie at *Torke, March*  
*26.* That hee alwaies thought it necessary the same  
 should bee settled, and that hee never denied the  
 thing, onely denied the way: and for the matter  
 of it, tooke exceptions onely to the preface, as a  
 thing not standing with his Honour to consent  
 to, and that Himselfe was excluded in the execu-  
 tion, and for a time unlimited: Whereupon the  
 Lords & Commōs beeing desirous to give his Ma-  
 iestie all satisfaction that might be, even to the least  
 tittle of forme, & circumstance; and when his Ma-  
 iestie was pleased to offer them a Bill ready drawn,  
 did for no other cause then to manifest their heart-  
 y affection to comply with his Maiesties desires,  
 & obtaine his consent, entertaind the same, and in  
 the meane time no way declining their Ordinance,  
 and to expresse their earnest zeale to correspond  
 with His Maiesties desire (in all things that might  
 consist with the peace and safety of the Kingdome,  
 and the trust reposed in them,) did passe that Bill,  
 and therein omitted the preamble inserted before  
 the Ordinance, limited the time to lesse then two  
 yeares, and confined the authority of the Lieu-  
 tenants to these three particulars, namely Rebel-  
 lion, Insurrection, and forraigne Invasion, and  
 returned the same to His Maiestie for His royall  
 assent. But all these expressions of affection and  
 loyalty, all those desires and earnest endeavours to  
 comply with His Maiestie, hath (to their great  
 greife and sorrow) produced no better effects  
 then



then an absolute denyall, even of that which His Majesty by His former Messages, as we conceive, had promised; the advice of evill and wicked counsels, receiving still more credit with Him, then that of His great Counsell of Parliament, in a matter of so high importance, that the safety of His Kingdome, and the peace of His people depends upon it.

But now what must be the exceptions to this Bill; not any sure, that was to the Ordinance; for a care was taken to give satisfaction in all these particulars: Then the exceptions was because that the disposing and execution thereof was referred to both House of Parliament, and His Majestie excluded: and now that by the Bill, the power and execution is ascertained, and reduced to particulars and the Law of the Realme made the rule thereof, His Majestie will not trust the Persons. The power is too great, to unlimited to trust them with. But what is that power? Is it any other, but in expresse terms to suppress Rebellion, Insurrection, and forraigne invasion; And who are those persons? are they not such as were nominated by the great Counsell of the Kingdome, and assented to by His Majesty. And is it too great a power to trust those persons with the suppression of Rebellion, Insurrection, and forraigne Invasion? surely the most wicked of them that advised His Majesty to this Answer cannot suggest, but that it is necessary for the safety of His Majesties Royall Person, and the peace of  
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the Kingdome; such a power should be put in some hands. And there is no pretence of exception to the persons. His Maieſty for the ſpace of above fiſteene yeares together, thought not a power farre exceeding this to be too great to intruſt particular perſons with, to whoſe will the Lives and Liberties of His People by Martiall Lawes were made ſubieſt, for ſuch was the power given to Lord Lieutenants, and Deputy Lieutenants in every County of this Kingdome, and that without the conſent of His people, or Authority of Law. But now in caſe of extreame neceſſity, upon the advice of both Houſes of Parliament for no longer ſpace then two yeares, a leſſer power, and that for the ſafety of King and People, is thought too great to truſt particular perſons with, though named by both Houſes of PARLIAMENT, and approved of by His Maieſty himſelfe. And ſurely if there be a neceſſity to ſettle the *MILITIA* (which his Maieſty was pleaſed to confeſſe) the perſons cannot be intruſted with leſſe power then then this to have it all effectually. And the Preſidents of former Ages when there hapned a neceſſity to raiſe ſuch a power, never ſtraightned that power to a narrower compaſſe, Witneſſe the Commiſſions of Array in ſeverall Kings Raignes, and often iſſued out by the conſent and Authority of Parliament. The Lords and Commons therefore intruſted with the ſafety of the Kingdome, and peace of the people, (which they call GOD to witneſſe is their onely Aime) finding themſel-



ves denied these their so necessary, and iust demands, and that they can never be discharged before God or Man if they should suffer the safety of the Kingdome and peace of the people, to be exposed to the malice of the Malignant party at Home, or the fury of Enemies from abroad. And knowing no other way to encounter the imminent and approaching danger, but by putting the people into a fit posture of defence, and doe resolve to put their said *Ordinance* in present Execution, and doe require all persons in Authority, by vertue of the said *Ordinance* forthwith to put the same in Execution, and all others to obey it, according to the fundamentall Lawes of the Kingdom in such cases, as they tender the upholding of the true Protestant Religion, the safety of His Maiesties Person, and His Royall Posterity, the peace of the Kingdome, and the being of this Commonwealth.

John Browne Cler. P. **Die**

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Die Martis 3. Maii.

1642.

Ordered by the Lords and commons in Parliament assembled: That the Persons intrusted with the ordering of the *Militia* of the Citie of London, shall have power to draw the Trained Bands of the Citie into such usuall and convenient places within three miles of the said City, as to them from time to time shall seeme fit, for the training and exercising of the Souldiers: And that the said Souldiers upon Summons shall from time to time appeare, and not depart from their Colours without the consent of their Officers, as they will Answer their contempt to the Parliament.

John Browne Cler. Parliam.

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TREASURE  
ROOM